

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01  
ACTION ARA-09

4109

EMBASSY IN DENMARK.

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-10 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 H-01 10-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 WA-08  
L-03 PH-09 PA-01 MCT-02 SYE-00 USIE-00 SP-02  
SNP-01 SPRS-01 /000 W

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P R 151410Z JAN 83  
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2804  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE POUCH  
AMCONSUL-SALVADOR DA BAHIA POUCH  
AMCONSUL RECIFE POUCH

SAO PAULO 0128

ROME FOR THE VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/14/89  
TAGS: POU, PINS, SHUM, BR, IT, AR, UY, PA, CI, VT  
SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN CARDINAL RELEASES LIST OF 7,791 MISSING PERSONS  
(DESAPARECIDOS) IN ARGENTINA

1. (ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY: SAO PAULO CARDINAL ARNS AND THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE RELEASED ON JANUARY 13 A LIST OF 7,791 PERSONS MISSING IN ARGENTINA OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS. THE LIST, ALONG WITH A CALENDAR COMMEMORATING MISSING CHILDREN, WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE POPE BY CARDINAL ARNS. THE LIST HAS BEEN NAILED AS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE TO DATE. END SUMMARY.

3. CARDINAL DOM PAULO EVARISTO ARNS, ARCHBISHOP OF SAO PAULO, REVEALED AT A JANUARY 13 PRESS CONFERENCE A LIST OF 7,791 "DESAPARECIDOS" IN ARGENTINA BETWEEN DECEMBER 1977 AND DECEMBER 1982. THE LIST INCLUDES CITIZENS OF TWENTY-SEVEN COUNTRIES, AMONG WHICH ARE THIRTEEN BRAZILIANS. THIS LIST, ACCORDING TO THE CARDINAL AND AUGUSTO CONTE, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA, IS MORE COMPLETE THAN ANY TO DATE, INCLUDING THOSE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. ARNS STATED THAT ALL NAMES WERE CHECKED WITH AT LEAST TWO INDEPENDENT SOURCES BEFORE PUBLICATION.

4. THE LIST WAS COMPILED AFTER TWO AND A HALF YEARS OF WORK BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE (CLAMOR). CLAMOR IS A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAO PAULO. EIGHT ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS ALSO COLLABORATED, ALONG WITH SOME GROUPS FROM URUGUAY, AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

5. THE DIRECTOR OF CLAMOR, JAIME WRIGHT, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE NUMBERS OF DESAPARECIDOS COULD REACH 15 THOUSAND. (NOTE: WRIGHT IS A PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER, BORN IN BRAZIL OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY PARENTS. HIS BROTHER IS A "DESAPARECIDO" IN BRAZIL SINCE 1973.) WRIGHT STATED IN TELECON WITH POLOFF THAT THE INFORMATION USED TO COMPILE THE LIST CAME MAINLY FROM MIDDLE AND UPPER-CLASS (READ "POLITICALLY AWARE") ARGENTINIANS. ACCORDING TO WRIGHT, IT IS ONLY RECENTLY THAT INFORMATION FROM NORTHERN ARGENTINA HAS BEGUN TO TRICKLE IN, AND INFORMATION FROM THE LOWER CLASSES IS STILL VERY RARE.

6. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH, CARDINAL ARNS WILL PERSONALLY DELIVER A COPY OF THE LIST TO THE POPE. A COPY HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT TO THE PAPAL NUNCIO IN ARGENTINA, MONSIGNOR UBALDO CALABRESI. ANOTHER COPY WAS SENT INDIRECTLY TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT VIA ITS

7. AT ARNS' PRESS CONFERENCE POLOFF ALSO RECEIVED A MIMEOGRAPHED LIST OF DESAPARECIDOS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: 128 BRAZILIANS IN BRAZIL SINCE 1964; 3 BRAZILIANS IN CHILE SINCE 1973; 13 BRAZILIANS IN ARGENTINA SINCE 1973; AND 2 ARGENTINIANS IN BRAZIL SINCE 1982. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHO AUTHORED THIS LIST, BUT PRESUMABLY IT ALSO WAS COMPILED BY ONE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS.

8. AMCONGEN SAO PAULO IS POUCHING COPY OF LIST (415 PAGES) AND CALENDAR TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES FOR ITS PERUSAL AND TO PASS TO WASHINGTON IF IT SO DESIRES.

9. COMMENT: THE BRAZILIAN CHURCH, UNDER THE ACTIVIST LEADERSHIP OF CARDINAL ARNS, HAS TAKEN THE LATIN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PERSONS FOR POLITICAL REASONS. ACCORDING TO WRIGHT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND THE GOA MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR THE ARGENTINE CHURCH TO CONDUCT FAR REACHING INVESTIGATIONS, AND THEREFORE THE BRAZILIAN CHURCH HAS TAKEN OVER THE ROLE. PUSHING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE DESAPARECIDOS HAS BEEN A WAY OF KEEPING THE QUESTION BEFORE THE PUBLIC AND THUS DISCOURAGING THIS TYPE OF ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS. OF THE SOUTHERN CONE OF LATIN AMERICA. ARNS' PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD ON THE SAME DAY THAT THE PRESIDENTS OF BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA WERE MEETING WITH ONE ANOTHER ON THEIR COUNTRIES' BORDERS. ARNS PROBABLY SCHEDULED THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THAT DAY SINCE IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE THAT BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO WOULD NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE DESAPARECIDOS WITH ARGENTINIAN PRESIDENT BIGNONE. THE TIMING WAS TOO PERFECT TO BE MERELY COINCIDENTAL. END COMMENT. LEARY

TT,  
I think we should  
include one sentence  
on this new report  
in the section on  
disappearances in the  
Argentine report,  
even though this  
church report was not  
issued until 1983.  
Do you agree.

LS

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/PS -

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

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